

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PARKS

Voting Members

Joey Manahan, Chair; Ron Menor, Vice-Chair,
Stanley Chang, Carol Fukunaga, Breene Harimoto

Committee Meeting Held
February 26, 2013

Honorable Ernest Y. Martin
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Parks, to which was referred Resolution 13-1 entitled:

"REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE ELECTRONIC
BENEFIT TRANSFER POINT-OF-SALE TERMINALS AT THE CITY'S PEOPLE'S
OPEN MARKET PROGRAM VENUES TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN
PURCHASING FRESH AND HEALTHY FOODS,"

introduced on January 2, 2013, reports as follows:

The purpose of this Resolution is to request that the City Administration, led by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), identify ways to provide access to electronic benefit transfer (EBT) point-of-sale (POS) terminals at People's Open Markets (POMs) throughout the island of Oahu, and to evaluate, revise and update DPR rules regarding POMs.

The introducer of the Resolution, Councilmember Breene Harimoto, provided opening remarks on the goals and rationale for the Resolution.

Ms. Toni Robinson, Acting DPR Director, testified in support of the Resolution and pledged to work with all involved parties to increase access by low income families to healthy, fresh and nutritious local products.

CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON

MAR 20 2013

COMMITTEE REPORT NO.

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Ms. Tina Tamaye from the State Department of Health (DOH) testified in support of the measure, stating that POMs constitute 25 of the 62 farmers markets on Oahu but only one POM provides EBT terminal access. She added that DOH supports the original intent of the POM program, which is to:

- 1) Provide an opportunity for the public, especially low income residents, to purchase fresh agricultural and aquacultural products and other food items at a lower cost;
- 2) Support the economic viability of diversified agriculture by providing more market sites for local farmers and vendors; and
- 3) Create focal points for neighbors to come together to encourage healthy diets and lifestyles.

Ms. Pamela Higa from the State Department of Human Services (DHS), which oversees the EBT and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) programs, testified in support of the Resolution, stating that providing EBT terminals at POMs would increase sales from SNAP redemptions and provide SNAP participants with increased access to fresh foods. Ms. Higa added that the Governor's proposed budget for the 2014 fiscal year requests funding to lease wireless EBT POS devices for use at farmers markets.

Dr. David Derauf, Executive Director of Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services (KKV), provided written testimony in support of the measure, indicating that the EBT program at KKV implemented last year at the Kalihi Valley Farmers Market, resulted in a 30% increase in vendors' net income, leading to greater food availability and sustainability.

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In addition to the testimonies mentioned above, there were two oral and seven written testimonies in support of Resolution 13-1.

Your Committee on Parks is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 13-1, and recommends its adoption. (Ayes: Manahan, Chang, Fukunaga, Harimoto, Menor — 5; Noes: None.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 51